

River Herring Technical Expert Working Group (TEWG)
Species Interaction Subgroup Webinar/Conference Call
October 16, 2014
1:00 - 2:30pm

Summary

I. Overview

The Species Interaction Subgroup of the River Herring Technical Expert Working Group was established to “consider issues surrounding the interactions between river herring and other components of the ecosystems they occupy rangewide (includes trophic interactions and ecosystem services in freshwater, estuarine and marine environments)” in order to help contribute to the expected products of the TEWG. Eric Schultz, chair of the Species Interaction Subgroup, convened a call on October 16, 2014. The draft agenda included presentations on river herring and catfish interactions, discussion on additional literature and working on the literature spreadsheet for future calls. Meeting materials included the most recent version of the Species Interaction Spreadsheet Evaluating Past Studies, and the presentations by Greg Garman and Matt Ogburn. This meeting summary includes the primary discussion topics and outcomes to contribute to future TEWG discussions. The information provided below reflects individual expert opinion and not consensus.

II. Key Topics

The below includes a list of individual expert opinion provided by Fisheries Subgroup members or the public on various overarching topics:

- Speaker’s conclusions (full presentations available at the website below under “Meeting Materials”, which includes a completed list of authors) and individual comments include:
 - *Status of invasive catfishes in Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries*, presented by Greg Garman (Virginia Commonwealth University). The abundance of blue catfish in Virginia waters has increased drastically (~100 million individuals). Flathead catfish are a more frequent predator of blueback herring due to habitat preferences (flatheads are often found in the same areas as bluebacks). The study did observe blue catfish predation, but not on a large scale.
 - *Status of blue catfish in Maryland rivers and tributaries*, presented by Matt Ogburn (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Blue catfish abundance in Maryland rivers and tributaries is fairly large, although not as large as abundance in Virginia rivers and tributaries. The abundance is expected to increase and moderate amount of predation is seen on river herring.

III. Next Steps

The Species Interaction Subgroup discussed the following next steps:

- Marin will work to complete the Species Interactions Spreadsheet.
- A continuation of this call will occur to discuss new business and revisit some issues on summarizing ecosystem services.

IV. Participants

a. Subgroup Members

The affiliation of each member can be found on the subgroup roster available at the TEWG Species Interactions Subgroup website:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/protected/riverherring/tewg/species/index.html>

Eric Schultz

Joseph Gordon

Jason Didden

Theo Willis (for Karen Wilson)

Les Kaufman

Kevin Sullivan

b. Public

Greg Garman (Virginia Commonwealth University)

Matt Ogburn (Smithsonian Environmental Research Center)

Purcie Bennett-Nickerson

c. Staff

Marin Hawk

Diane Borggaard

V. Meeting Materials

The following materials were provided to support the meeting. Additional information can be found at the TEWG Fisheries Subgroup website:

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/protected/riverherring/tewg/fisheries/index.html>

a. Draft Agenda

b. Species Interactions Spreadsheet Evaluating Past Studies